
Western Regional Climate Center



**DIVISION OF ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES
DESERT RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

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The Western Regional Climate Center (WRCC), inaugurated in 1986, is one of six regional climate centers in the United States. The Regional Climate Centers Program is administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and funded through the NOAA Cooperative Institute for Atmospheric Sciences and Terrestrial Applications (CIASTA). Specific oversight is provided by the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC), a part of the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service. The WRCC performs several distinct functions.

- Serves as a focal point for coordination of applied climate activities in the West
 - Federal resource management agencies
 - Western committees and commissions
 - Drought and climate monitoring
- Maintains links to other climate programs
 - National Climatic Data Center, Asheville, North Carolina
 - Regional Climate Centers
 - State climatologists and state climate programs
 - Climate Prediction Center, National Weather Service, Washington, DC
- Conducts applied research on climate issues affecting the West
 - Impacts of climate variability in the western United States
 - Relation of El Niño/Southern Oscillation to Western Climate
 - Climatic trends / fluctuations in the West
 - Quality control of western databases
 - Climate extremes

- Responds to requests for climate information from the private sector, federal and state agencies, academia, and the public
 - Most requests have same-day response
 - Listing of original data
 - Summarized climate Means, extremes, frequency distributions, time series, probabilities, threshold exceedences Graphical presentations
 - Media available: paper, diskette, magnetic tape, remote access, CD ROM
 - Re-routing as appropriate to state climate centers or NCDC

- Maintains historical climate databases for the West support the above functions
 - Daily climate observations for digital period of record (6,781 stations, about 2,608 now active)
 - Summarized monthly climate data (5,240 stations)
 - Hourly precipitation data (1,937 stations)
 - 15-minute precipitation data (1,082 stations)
 - Twice-daily upper air soundings (about 50 stations)
 - Surface airways hourly observations (over 1,800 stations nationwide)
 - Remote Automatic Weather Station (RAWS)
 - Historic lightning data (ALDS) thru 1996
 - Access to Natural Resources Conservation Service SNOTEL and other western databases

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HOW TO USE THIS SERVICE

Climate information derived from the digital database, or from earlier summaries and reports, can be obtained on a cost reimbursable basis. Digital data are available as original listings, or in summarized or manipulated form (e.g., tables and graphs). Requests for information can be received by Email: wrcc@dri.edu, Tel: 775-674-7010, or Fax: 775-674-7016.

WEB AND INTERNET ACCESS

World Wide Web: <http://www.wrcc.dri.edu>

General email inquiries: wrcc@dri.edu

Web-Accessible Information:

- ❑ Detailed Historical Climate Summaries
- ❑ Climate Monitoring
- ❑ Climate Maps
- ❑ Data Inventories
- ❑ El Niño/La Niña
- ❑ Regional Data Networks
- ❑ Monthly, Annual Time Series
- ❑ Weather • Climate • Education • Travel Information

COMMITMENT

The WRCC is committed to serving the growing climate needs of its constituents. This entails constant updates of a wide array of products and services, integration of western weather and climate databases, improved access to information via the World Wide Web, and enhanced coordination among weather and climate organizations in the West.

UNIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM OF NEVADA

The Desert Research Institute (DRI) is an autonomous element of the University and Community College System of Nevada. DRI's research program has expanded from its original theme of arid land issues and problems, and now spans a comprehensive spectrum represented by its three main divisions:

- ❑ Division of Atmospheric Sciences
- ❑ Division of Earth and Ecosystems Sciences
- ❑ Division of Hydrologic Sciences

Although these divisions emphasize particular areas of inquiry, interdisciplinary approaches are routinely employed to study environmental issues.

The Institute has facilities in Reno and Las Vegas, Nevada, and employs approximately 285 research professionals and technicians.

The Western Regional Climate Center is housed within the Division of Atmospheric Sciences. This Division has traditionally specialized in studies of cloud, aerosol, and atmospheric physics and their relation to weather and climate. The Division of Atmospheric Sciences employs approximately 100 people.



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